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Canada. Minister of State, Multiculturalism

Statements and Speeches

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STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF STATE - MULTICULTURALISM
IN THE HOUSE

MARCH 21, 1983

TODAY HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1966 AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. IT COMMEMORATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRE OF UNARMED PEOPLE WHO, ON MARCH 21, 1960, WERE DEMONSTRATING PEACEFULLY IN SHARPEVILLE, SOUTH AFRICA, AGAINST THAT COUNTRY'S RACIAL LAWS.

CANADA IS A STATES PARTY TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WHICH CAME INTO FORCE IN 1969, AND HAS REPORTED SIX TIMES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE STATE OF ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONVENTION.

IN CANADA, THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AND THE ENTRECHMENT OF MULTICULTURALISM IN OUR CONSTITUTION ARE LIVING PROOF OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE UP OUR CULTURALLY AND RACIALLY DIVERSE NATION.

THE POLICY OF MULTICULTURALISM, ADOPTED BY PARLIAMENT OVER A DECADE AGO, COMMITTED CANADA TO THE CONCEPT OF CULTURAL PLURALISM WITHIN A BILINGUAL FRAMEWORK. ONE OF THE BASIC THRUSTS OF THAT POLICY IS TO ASSIST ALL CULTURAL GROUPS TO OVERCOME CULTURAL

BARRIERS TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN CANADIAN SOCIETY. DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CERTAIN CULTURAL GROUPS IS CERTAINLY A BARRIER TO SUCH PARTICIPATION. THE "VISIBLE MINORITIES", THAT IS NATIVE PEOPLES AND PEOPLE WITH ORIGINS IN ASIA AND AFRICA, FACE PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES IN THIS RESPECT.

WHILE WE ARE, IN THIS COUNTRY, MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS ELIMINATING THESE BARRIERS, MUCH STILL REMAINS TO BE DONE TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE. IN THE AREA OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, WE HAVE BEGUN TO OPEN UP A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AMONG CANADIANS IN VARIOUS FIELDS TO SEEK WAYS IN WHICH SUCH DISCRIMINATION CAN BE ELIMINATED IN OUR SOCIETY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES IN THE AREA OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE ARE"

- MULTICULTURALISM'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE IN 1981 WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER, AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL FOR THE FIRST TIME, LEADERS OF BUSINESS, LABOUR, THE MEDIA AND VISIBLE MINORITY GROUPS, TO BEGIN THIS DIALOGUE.

- THE SYMPOSIUM ON RACE RELATIONS AND THE LAW IN APRIL OF LAST YEAR SIMILARLY BROUGHT TOGETHER LEADERS WHO DEAL WITH ISSUES OF THE USE OF THE LAW TO FIGHT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.
- A NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VISIBLE MINORITIES AND THE MEDIA WAS HELD IN THE FALL OF 1982. KEY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ADVERTISING AND BROADCASTING INDUSTRIES AND VISIBLE MINORITIES DISCUSSED HOW CANADIAN MEDIA CAN BETTER REFLECT AND PORTRAY THE DIVERSITY OF CANADIAN SOCIETY IN ITS ADVERTISEMENTS AND PROGRAMS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS SET AN EXAMPLE IN THIS AREA BY ADOPTING GUIDELINES ON THE PORTRAYAL AND DEPICTION OF MINORITIES IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS.

WITHIN MY OWN MINISTRY, I HAVE ESTABLISHED A RACE RELATIONS UNIT WITHIN THE MULTICULTURALISM PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHICH WE AS A SOCIETY HAVE TO ADDRESS TO REMOVE RACIAL PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION AND TO PROMOTE POSITIVE COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONS.

WE ALL RECOGNIZE THAT THE PROMOTION OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING, TOLERANCE AND HARMONY AMONG OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES IS A LONG-TERM UNDERTAKING. CANADA IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THIS UNDERTAKING.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WE CAN BUILD A TRULY CREATIVE, DYNAMIC, EXCITING AND HARMONIOUS MULTICULTURAL AND MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY IN CANADA THAT WILL PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS. THERE IS SUFFICIENT GOODWILL AND WILLINGNESS AMONG CANADIANS TO WORK TOWARDS THAT GOAL. WE SHOULD ALL BUILD ON THAT GOODWILL AND WILLINGNESS AND ON THE THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE SO FAR.

THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, WITH ITS EXPLICIT INCLUSION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF MULTICULTURALISM, ITS PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT, IS A PROCLAMATION OF A PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE. IT IS UP TO ALL OF US TO ENSURE THAT THE PROMISE IS FULFILLED.



Multiculturalism / Multiculturalisme

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Speaking Notes
for
the Honourable Gerry Weiner
Minister of State
Multiculturalism and Citizenship
at the
Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement
Press Conference

Ottawa

September 22, 1988

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FOR OVER FORTY YEARS
SUCCESSIVE CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE
OR TO REDRESS THE SHAMEFUL INJUSTICES DONE TO JAPANESE
CANADIANS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND AFTER.

OF APPROXIMATELY 22,000 JAPANESE CANADIANS WHO
WERE UPROOTED, RELOCATED, INTERNED OR DEPORTED DURING THIS
TIME, THE VAST MAJORITY WERE CANADIAN CITIZENS. AND LET ME
EMPHASIZE -- MOST WERE BORN HERE IN CANADA.

THE PRIME MINISTER PLEDGED IN 1984 THAT HIS
GOVERNMENT WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RIGHT THE WRONGS
OF THE PAST AS BEST WE CAN TODAY. THIS WAS NOT AN EASY
PLEDGE TO FULFILL. THE ISSUES ARE COMPLEX AND DETERMINING
APPROPRIATE REDRESS FOR THE LOSS OF DIGNITY, OF HONOUR AND
SELF-PRIDE, OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

IT IS THEREFORE WITH DEEP FEELINGS OF HUMILITY AND
PRIDE THAT I SHARE WITH YOU DETAILS OF AN AGREEMENT ON
JAPANESE CANADIAN REDRESS, ANNOUNCED BY THE PRIME MINISTER
IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TODAY.

THIS IS AN HISTORIC AGREEMENT. AND IT IS AN
HONOURABLE AND MEANINGFUL SETTLEMENT.

BUT BEFORE GOING INTO DETAILS LET ME TELL YOU
ABOUT THE PRINCIPLES WHICH GUIDED AND DEFINED OUR
NEGOTIATIONS.

FIRST, WE SOUGHT TO REACH AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD
HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE
CANADIANS (NAJC), ON BEHALF OF THE JAPANESE CANADIAN
COMMUNITY.

SECOND, WE WANTED TO ENSURE THAT THIS KIND OF
INJUSTICE COULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN IN THIS COUNTRY.

AND THIRD, WE STRUGGLED TO FINALIZE AN AGREEMENT
NOW FOR COMPASSIONATE REASONS. WE WERE MINDFUL OF THOSE
JAPANESE CANADIANS WHOSE HEALTH OR ADVANCING AGE MIGHT
DEPRIVE THEM OF KNOWING THAT THE SHAME ON THEIR HONOUR,
THEIR DIGNITY, THEIR RIGHTS AS CANADIANS IS NOW REMOVED
FOREVER.

LET ME REMIND YOU THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE STRIPPED
OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.

THEIR ENTIRE COMMUNITY WAS TORN APART. THEIR
LAND, THEIR HOMES, THEIR PERSONAL PROPERTY WERE TAKEN FROM
THEM. FAMILY MEMBERS WERE CRUELLY SEPARATED FROM EACH
OTHER. AND NONE OF THESE PERSONS WAS EVER CHARGED WITH ANY
ACT OF SABOTAGE OR DISLOYALTY.

WHY DID THEY REMAIN LOYAL TO THIS COUNTRY?

ONLY SOMEONE WHO IS JAPANESE CANADIAN CAN
EXPLAIN. SO LET ME SHARE WITH YOU THE WORDS OF JOY KOGAWA
FROM HER AWARD-WINNING BOOK OBASAN. HERE KOGAWA IS
DESCRIBING WHY HER AUNT EMILY, A "NISEI" OR
SECOND-GENERATION JAPANESE CANADIAN, FOUGHT FOR
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INJUSTICE DONE TO HER PEOPLE.

QUOTE: "WHEN WAR STRUCK THIS COUNTRY,
WHEN NEITHER PRIDE NOR BELLIGERENCE
NOR GRIEF HAD AVAILED US ANYTHING,
WHEN WE WERE UPROOTED, AND SCATTERED
TO THE FOUR WINDS, I CLUNG DESPERATELY
TO THOSE IMMORTAL LINES:

THIS IS MY OWN, MY NATIVE LAND.

LATER STILL, AFTER OUR FORMER HOMES HAD
BEEN SOLD OVER OUR VIGOROUS PROTESTS,
AFTER HAVING BEEN RE-REGISTERED,
FINGER-PRINTED, CARD-INDEXED, ROPED AND
RESTRICTED, I CRY OUT THE QUESTION:

IS THIS MY OWN, MY NATIVE LAND?

THE ANSWER CANNOT BE CHANGED. YES.

IT IS. FOR BETTER OR WORSE, I AM CANADIAN."

THE KEY TO OUR NEGOTIATIONS REALLY LIES IN THAT
FINAL SENTENCE. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OF THE TIME
COMMITTED UNFAIR, DISCRIMINATORY ACTS AGAINST LOYAL
CANADIANS. THIS GOVERNMENT IS NOW ACKNOWLEDGING THOSE
WRONGS AND PROMISING THAT THEY MUST NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

AND SO THE REDRESS AGREEMENT THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED
STATES CLEARLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WILL:

- * ACKNOWLEDGE THE INJUSTICES INFLICTED ON CANADIANS
OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY DURING AND AFTER WORLD
WAR II;

- * OFFER SYMBOLIC REDRESS PAYMENT OF \$21,000 TO ELIGIBLE CANADIANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY, LIVING AS OF TODAY, WHO WERE RELOCATED, INTERNED AND/OR DEPORTED DURING AND FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THEIR ANCESTRY. EACH PAYMENT WILL BE A TAX-FREE LUMP SUM;
- * CLEAR THE NAMES OF ELIGIBLE PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY WHO WERE CONVICTED UNDER THE WAR MEASURES ACT. WE WILL ALSO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP.
- * PROVIDE \$12 MILLION TO THE JAPANESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY, THROUGH THE NAJC, TO UNDERTAKE EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY, OR THAT WILL PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS.
- * PROVIDE \$24 MILLION TO CREATE A CANADIAN RACE RELATIONS FOUNDATION THAT WILL FOSTER RACIAL HARMONY AND CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND HELP ELIMINATE RACISM. AT THE REQUEST OF THE NAJC, ONE HALF OF THAT ENDOWMENT WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS A COMMEMORATION OF THOSE WHO SUFFERED INJUSTICES.

IN ADDITION, WE HAVE REPLACED THE WAR MEASURES ACT WITH THE NEW EMERGENCIES ACT. THIS WAS ONE OF THE SETTLEMENT MEASURES SOUGHT BY THE NAJC, AND I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THIS NEW ACT EQUIPS THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF CANADIANS WHILE LIMITING EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES TO NO MORE THAN IS ABSOLUTELY NEEDED.

I BELIEVE THAT ALL THESE MEASURES DEMONSTRATE HOW MUCH CANADA HAS MATURED IN FORTY YEARS. THE CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT... THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS... THE CANADIAN MULTICULTURALISM ACT WHICH BECAME LAW IN JULY... AND NOW THIS HISTORIC JAPANESE CANADIAN REDRESS AGREEMENT... THESE AND OTHER INITIATIVES WILL HELP COUNTER DISCRIMINATION AND INJUSTICE WHEREVER AND WHENEVER THEY ARE FOUND.

AND THEY DEMONSTRATE CLEARLY THAT WE ARE A NATION CAPABLE OF LEARNING FROM THE SOMETIMES BITTER MISTAKES OF THE PAST TO BUILD AN EVEN BETTER FUTURE FOR US ALL.

WE ARE PREPARED TO CONFRONT PREJUDICE OR DISCRIMINATION OR RACISM -- AND CALL THEM UNACCEPTABLE.

OUR SOCIETY OF TODAY WOULD NOT TOLERATE WHAT TOOK PLACE FORTY YEARS AGO. WE, AS CANADIANS, HAVE INDEED CHANGED AND GROWN. WE HAVE ACQUIRED NEW WISDOM AND COMPASSION. AND, OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE RECOGNIZED THE REALITY AND THE VAST POTENTIAL OF OUR MULTICULTURAL IDENTITY.

THIS GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE INJUSTICES DONE TO JAPANESE CANADIANS SERVES NOTICE TO ALL CANADIANS THAT THE EXCESSES OF THE PAST ARE CONDEMNED AND THAT THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY IN CANADA ARE REAFFIRMED.

I WANT TO SAY HOW MUCH I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO A CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH MR. MIKI AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS AS WE BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT.

WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN SAY NEVER AGAIN WITH GENUINE CONVICTION AND UNDERSTANDING. WE CAN CONTINUE TO BUILD A BETTER AND FAIRER SOCIETY FOR ALL CANADIANS. AND, BELIEVE ME, WE WILL.





Ottawa K1A 0M5 Ottawa K1A 0M5

February 1, 1983

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Dear Friend:

As we approach the completion of three years of this government, I am writing to bring you up to date on the developments and achievements in the area of Multiculturalism in the Government of Canada. In addition to the various developments of Multiculturalism Canada, I also want to draw to your attention some of the programs in other departments at the Federal level, since, of course, the concept of Multiculturalism and its application is much wider and represents much more than only Multiculturalism Canada and its programs.

In this letter I want to talk about (A) The Ongoing Program Areas of Multiculturalism Canada, (B) New Initiatives in Multiculturalism Canada, (C) the involvement of other departments, and (D) The Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

A. MULTICULTURALISM CANADA: The Ongoing Program Areas

During my period as Minister, we have continued to develop and strengthen certain program areas which began a decade ago, and in addition, have moved into several new areas which are essential to fairness and equity in our culturally diverse society.

We currently operate with a total budget of \$13.6 million, and have some 70 people in Ottawa and in the regional offices who administer the program. This represents a 50% budgetary increase since this government took office in March 1980. However, I am continuing to press for more adequate funding.

Following is a listing of programs within Multiculturalism Canada which, over the last decade, have assisted Canadians in realizing their needs of cultural preservation, in addition to helping cultural integration among people of all origins.

Group Development and Cultural Integration have provided funds to ethnocultural organizations, for developmental purposes as well as for the integration of Canadians of all cultural origins into the mainstream of society enabling their full participation. The budget for this area is \$3.4 million.

The Heritage Languages program provides heritage language classes to some 90,000 children across the country in after-hours schools run by ethnocultural groups. At present more than 50 languages are being taught. In addition, this program helps develop made-in-Canada curriculum material and provides teacher training and development. The current budget in this area is \$1.4 million.

A first national Conference on Heritage Languages was hosted by Multiculturalism Canada in Saskatoon in July 1981. In recognition of this vital and unique Canadian asset the conference brought together teachers and administrators from across the country to better come to terms with the needs and demands of heritage language teaching. Following the conference various networks were established across the country which enable experience and knowledge to be shared more effectively. The report has been distributed to participants and further documents will be receiving much wider distribution in the near future. A follow-up conference, partially funded by us, has already been held in Ontario. The learning of Heritage Languages remains a priority area of interest and concern, where at least a portion of any additional monies will be focused.

Multicultural Centres. We have provided funding to a number of multicultural centres across the country that bring together people of all ethnocultural backgrounds. This helps to share and understand and hence foster cultural diversity. At present we provide funding to some 48 centres and within budgetary restrictions we are reviewing sunset clauses in light of the legitimate demands for new centres. The budget for this area is \$1.3 million and continues to be a funding priority.

The Arts. While Heritage culture and folk arts continue to be areas of considerable attention, the demands on our budget have been much heavier in other areas, and the demands in this area have proportionately reduced. However, over the last decade a solid base of the ethnocultural folk arts has been established. In many major centres the folk arts have become self-sustaining and even profit-making, allowing funds to be directed to other areas of cultural retention and integration. While The Canadian Heritage Festival continues as a major platform for folk arts groups, the focus has been broadened as we have encouraged greater use of film, theatre and television. These mediums not only provide increased opportunities for the artists but have served to create a greater understanding of the wealth of our diversity amongst all Canadians. The funding for this area is \$1 million.

Research and Ethnic Studies. Over the years a great deal of research in cultural diversity has been carried out under this program area. The research has better enabled my officials and the Canadian public at large to understand the needs and concerns of the ethnocultural communities and to overcome barriers of entry.

Under the "Generations Series", of books on individual ethnocultural groups, we have so far published the histories of the Scots, the Portuguese, the Arabs, the Greeks, the Japanese, the Norwegians, the Poles, and the Hungarians, and in the next few months we will be launching the histories on the Croatians, the Chinese and the Ukrainians. Seven other histories have been commissioned and are in the process of being developed. In addition, the Endowment Assistance Program establishes a Chair in Ethnic Studies for various ethnocultural groups at different universities across the country. To date we have established chairs in Hungarian, Ukrainian, Mennonite and Acadian studies and several others are now under consideration including Celtic, Native and Italian studies.

A matter of serious concern is to find ways of gathering and maintaining a bank of information of all material dealing with Multiculturalism. The budget for this area is \$1.4 million.

The Ethnic Media. Multiculturalism Canada has been providing advertising to the ethnic press, an important source of income to many of these publications, which are vital to maintaining communication. At the beginning of this government, I removed the freeze on advertising imposed by the previous government, and will shortly be going to Cabinet to establish a more rationalized use of the ethnic media by all departments.

B. MULTICULTURALISM CANADA: The New Initiatives

A number of new initiatives have been developed since I became Minister. Recognizing the need for a strong cultural base for the many ethnocultural groups, Multiculturalism Canada has, since its inception, given a great deal of attention to developing this base. In recent years, however, changing immigration patterns and harder economic times have necessitated that additional attention be given to initiatives that reduce cultural tension and barriers. While solid support for programs of cultural retention have been maintained, there is the need to be sensitive to the principles of integration and equity. This added emphasis has motivated the following new initiatives.

The 10th Anniversary Biennial Conference. The conference marking the 10th Anniversary of the policy, for the first time brought senior representatives of business, labour, media and academia together with a cross-section of ethnocultural community

leaders. The objective was to increase the sensitivity of the mainstream institutions to our cultural diversity -- i.e. in the market place, in the work place and in the media.

I believe that for the principles of multiculturalism to be fully realized, it is essential that we take our message beyond the minority ethnocultural communities, and that we sensitize all Canadians.

Race Relations. In attempting to realize our cultural diversity, the prospect of racism and discrimination is totally contrary to everything we try to do. As such, it is essential that I, as Minister of State for Multiculturalism, speak out clearly and strongly against such intolerance. One significant component of our program to combat racism was a national Symposium on Race Relations and the Law in April of 1982 in Vancouver. The recommendations for changes in the Criminal Code and in the criminal justice system are being worked on by my officials and the other relevant departments -- Justice, Solicitor General and Canadian Human Rights Commission.

A new Race Relations Unit consisting of ten additional staff people in Ottawa and in the regions is now in the process of commissioning and gathering research on the extent of the problem across the country. In addition, special kits are being prepared for the police and for the education system to assist in overcoming misunderstanding and stereotyping.

Visible Minorities and the Media. With the assistance of the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism (CCCCM) and in following-up from the 10th Anniversary conference, a considerable amount of progress has been achieved in the area of visible minorities in media and advertising. We convened the first Conference on Visible Minorities and the Media in October 1982 in Toronto. The conference brought together senior representatives of the private sector, the media, the advertising industry, and representatives of the ethnocultural communities. For the first time these various sectors came together to work out ways of better reflecting Canadian cultural diversity. A conference report is in preparation. Flowing from the meeting, regional consultation between the private sector and ethnocultural communities is under way in cooperation with the Advertising Advisory Board and the Canadian Association of Broadcasters.

Diversity Guidelines for Government Communications. I have obtained concurrence from my Cabinet colleagues that the advertising and communications of all Federal Government departments will portray our racial and ethnic diversity. More broadly, the CCCC has been helpful in meeting with senior executives of the CBC and CTV to press for better reflection of diversity in their programming.

Immigrant Women. I have set a personal priority on this issue. The first National Conference on Immigrant Women held in March 1981 in Toronto has created solid networks across the country in addition to a national organization that is aimed at overcoming the barriers of entry into our society for these women. The specific area which has been identified as the first priority is the need for these women to be fluent in English or French. Along with the Department of Employment and Immigration, Multiculturalism Canada is giving this matter special attention. The conference report has been widely distributed and the recommendations have been addressed to the relevant departments and levels of government.

Multiculturalism in Education. The first national conference in this area held in November 1981 in Winnipeg brought together over 600 educators from across the country to make all facets of the education system more responsive to our cultural diversity -- textbooks, curriculum, discipline problems, language problems, teacher training, etc. The national and provincial networks have since continued to develop this issue in each province and territory.

Promoting Multiculturalism as a Societal Concept. In addition to advertising in the ethnic media, a new majority media campaign over the last two years has been aimed at increasing understanding of our cultural diversity among all Canadians. The message has repeatedly stressed that Multiculturalism is aimed at uniting, not dividing Canadians. Newspapers, radio and particularly television advertising across Canada has sought to reflect this objective.

C. MULTICULTURALISM AND THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS

For the principles of multiculturalism to be realized in Canada it is necessary that all government departments play their part. As I mentioned earlier, the Government Advertising Guidelines on the depiction of visible minorities apply to all departments. In addition, all Ministers have been requested to try to increase the representation of Canadians of minority ethnocultural communities on Boards and Commissions in their areas of responsibility.

A number of other departments have program areas of direct interest to multiculturalism. Most notable is the Immigrant Settlement Aid Program of the Department of Employment and Immigration. This program spends upwards of \$20 million in many immigrant services, including the teaching of English and French to new Canadians. As such, it enhances cultural equality and works towards full participation in society of all Canadians.

D. THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

In April of 1982, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms gave special recognition to the multicultural nature of Canada. With its proclamation, the policy, introduced a decade earlier, was formally entrenched in the Charter.

The pertinent sections:

"Section 15. (1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, ..."

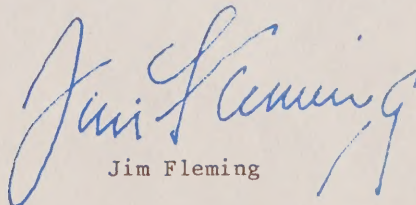
"Section 27. This Charter shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians."

Proclamation of the Charter represented a landmark in entrenching the principles of multiculturalism for all time.

In closing, I want to stress that this Government remains firmly committed to the Multiculturalism Policy introduced by Prime Minister Trudeau in 1971. While the administration and focus of the policy is in my jurisdiction as Minister of State for Multiculturalism, all other Ministers and departments play their part in furthering this very Canadian policy. In these difficult economic times, I believe we have been able to provide significant support to further the ideals of multiculturalism.

I appreciate your taking the time to read this important letter, and as always, look forward to hearing from you if you have any further concerns or questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jim Fleming". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "J" and "F".

Jim Fleming

THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

In March of 1941, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was presented to the constituent members of Canada. With the introduction of the Charter, the British Government, and the Canadian Government, have been able to ensure that the Charter is the basis of the Canadian Constitution.

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Section 1 of the Charter states that every individual has the right to the full enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set out in the Charter, subject to such reasonable limits as can be justified in a free and democratic society.

Section 2 of the Charter states that the Charter is the basis of the Canadian Constitution, and that the Charter is the basis of the Canadian Constitution.

Section 3 of the Charter states that the Charter is the basis of the Canadian Constitution, and that the Charter is the basis of the Canadian Constitution.

In 1982, I was to advise that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was presented to the constituent members of Canada. With the introduction of the Charter, the British Government, and the Canadian Government, have been able to ensure that the Charter is the basis of the Canadian Constitution.

I am sure that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is the basis of the Canadian Constitution, and that the Charter is the basis of the Canadian Constitution.

John G. ...
The Charter



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